

**Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection**

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

**Date:** January 4, 2006

**Inspector:** Diana Walden

**Location:** Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane) and (345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill)

**Storm/**

**Rain Event:** Approximately 1.34" of precipitation fell mostly in the form of snow in the north and rain in the south on 1/2-1/3 as reported by NOAA.

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways  <b>Composite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Road by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 1/4/06</li> <li>- Snow cover has returned along with the need for more plowing. A number of locations were noted where snow and sediment had been piled over the silt fence near adjacent wetlands. 1/4/06</li> <li>- CL&amp;P remarked that they are appropriately placing sand on hills of the access roads but not adjacent to wetlands. 1/4/06</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With freezing and thawing periods likely, additional measures for stability should be considered if there are still access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, it will have to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-1/4/06</li> <li>-The snow plowing issue needs attention. Either wetland crossings need to be built wider with buffers to accommodate snow or it has to be pushed to a designated spot. See erosion control and wetland sections for more detail. 12/14-12/30/05.</li> </ul>
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of access roads off Chestnut Ridge Rd continues. Mats were being installed at another stream/wetland crossing. The approach to all crossings need erosion controls especially with the snow plow/sediment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sedimentation was not an issue yet but it could be a potential as disturbed soil/snow could run off the road towards the wetland. Some haybales or silt fence lining the approach or placed along the wetland boundaries</li> </ul>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
	<p>piles present. 1/4/06</p> <p>-The access road from Bethel Reservoir remains in use. The large crossing of swamp mats over the stream was still present. Stone was installed to stabilize a low crossing on the way in. 1/4/06</p> <p>- Mats were installed at another crossing in the ROW moving north. 1/4/06</p> <p>- The larger wetland crossing moving south was becoming rutted even with snow cover and mats were preparing to be installed here as well. 1/4/06</p>	<p>will help. 12/30-1/4/06</p> <p>- The crossing was very well constructed and the stream was flowing high but clear. Watch for creation of ruts as they will need to be restored to original condition. 1/4/06</p> <p>-None at this time. 1/4/06</p> <p>- Provide erosion controls on the approach to the mats as necessary to prevent sedimentation. 1/4/06</p>
<p>Foundation construction</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p>	<p>-No active work was noted this week in the composite section. Cables were set up at several old wooden structure in preparation for removal. 1/4/06</p> <p>- A structure foundation had been installed near the driveway off Chestnut Ridge. A stockpile was resulting. 12/22-1/4/06</p> <p>- Clearing and access road construction/mat installation is ongoing in this section. 12/30-1/4/06</p>	<p>-None at this time. 1/4/06</p> <p>.</p> <p>- None at this time. The stockpile remained and had additional silt fence installed. 1/4/06</p>
<p>Erosion and Sediment Controls (includes inspection within 24 hours of a storm event)</p> <p>Erosion and Sediment Controls</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p>	<p>-Water has been flowing through/under the silt fence at the wetland crossing past Archers Lane and turbidity has been noted here. 12/01-1/4/06. With snow plowing, additional potential sediment issues were noted. 1/4/06</p> <p>- The access roads were plowed, creating snow pile issues over the silt fence in numerous locations. 1/4/06</p>	<p>- The silt fence should be extended, towed in, and/or repaired as necessary (or the haybale line should be continued along the low point to prevent turbidity). 12/8-1/4/06. Solutions need to be investigated.</p> <p>-Silt fence adjacent to wetlands need attention and snow cannot continue to be piled over the controls. 1/4/06</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
<p>Erosion controls continued</p> <p><b>345kV H-Frame</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 2<sup>nd</sup> structure in from Gallows Hill has had a bare soil/boulder slope adjacent to the wetland with controls still well in place. 11/23-1/4/06.</li> <li>- The first wetland crossing, immediately within the Archers Lane site before the access road opens into the ROW is also showing similar sedimentation/turbidity issues from road run-off. A thin layer of fine sediment was noted in the leaves under the water. 1/4/06</li> <li>- Mats for stream crossings and wetlands are being installed well in this portion of the ROW but the approaches need erosion controls to prevent sediment washing into the resource area. 12/30-1/4/06</li> <li>- Snow plow piles with sediment also present another source of potential sedimentation/run-off. 1/4/06</li> <li>- The larger wetland crossing in the Bethel Reservoir ROW section is becoming rutted even with snow cover. 1/4/06</li> <li>-Silt fence was installed at a low point near the water building and stone was installed to stabilize. 1/4/06</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The area should be regraded, pulled back from the fence, and restored when feasible. 12/1-1/4/06</li> <li>- Some general site clean-up should be performed around each structure work area. 12/30-1/4/06</li> <li>- Solutions to prevent sedimentation and turbidity in the ponded water here need to be investigated and implemented. 1/4/06</li> <li>-Some haybales or silt fence could be used to line the approach or placed along the wetland boundary. 1/4/06</li> <li>- This needs to be done at the first larger stream crossing north of Chestnut Ridge Rd. as well as the second crossing moving north. They should be on each side of the ROW and downgradient of any larger snow piles. 1/4/06</li> <li>- Mats are being prepared for installation. 1/4/06</li> <li>-None at this time, the area looks good. 1/4/06</li> </ul>
<p>Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation</p> <p><b>Composite</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The D&amp;M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings had worked well, but at the two areas near Archers Lane, turbid water continues to enter the ponded water here. 12/8-1/4/06</li> <li>- The rocks at the crossings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. Extend and/or toe in areas of silt fence, add haybales, or develop other solutions to prevent additional turbidity. 12/8-1/4/06</li> </ul>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
<b>345kV H-Frame</b>	<p>are also completely clogged with sediment at this point 1/4/06</p> <p>-All streams under the mat crossings were running clear. But additional erosion controls are required in some areas to prevent potential sedimentation. 1/4/06.</p> <p>- The wetland ruts resulting from accessing and skidding out trees a few weeks ago should be monitored. 1/4/06</p>	<p>Consider cleaning up the crossings. 1/4/06</p> <p>-See recommendation in erosion control section. 1/4/06</p> <p>- If channelization is noted as a result during the spring, the ruts/contours of the area should be repaired if possible. 1/4/06</p>
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	<p>- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-1/4/06.</p> <p>-The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting and are likely hibernating. 1/4/06.</p>	<p>-Turtles would no longer be active at this time of year. 1/4/06</p>
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	<p>- A large amount of clearing continues for the H-frame section. Smaller trees and brush are being chipped on site (some chips will be removed) and larger trees are stockpiled and may be utilized by landowners. 12/22-1/4/06 -</p> <p>- Some of the chips were spread out on the ROW. 12/30/05</p>	<p>-Keep clearing to what is necessary. The D&amp;M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 12/22-1/4/06</p> <p>-Efforts to retain mountain laurel and other shrubs were noted. 1/4/06</p> <p>- Chips spread on the ROW should not be to a depth of more than 3" by the time the growing season is about to begin. 1/4/06</p>
Dewatering	<p>- Dewatering was not noted at this inspection. 1/4/06</p>	<p>- Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. Otherwise use a filter bag or containment of some kind. 1/4/06</p>
Blasting	<p>-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 1/4/06.</p>	<p>-None at this time. 1/4/06.</p>

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action
Spills and Material Storage	- No drips or leaks were noted under any of the vehicles this week. 1/4/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site</li><li>- Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios.</li><li>- Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled.</li><li>- Take care not to get carried away and to be vigilant when refueling. Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials.</li></ul>
Additional Observations		

**Next likely scheduled inspection:**

Thursday January 12, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**Inspector's Signature:**

Diana Walden





**(Composite Section):** Photo on the left shows an overview of the access road leading from Archers Lane to the ROW with snow plowed over the silt fence. Photo on the right shows where sediment has passed through the silt fence and settled in the adjacent wetland. 1/4/06



**Both photos show views of the access roads where snow and sediment was piled up over the silt fence in a number of locations during plowing. Either temporary roads have to be built wider to accommodate this or snow has to be pushed to designated locations. 1/4/06**





Both photos show views of preparation for pole removal at some of the old wooden structures.  
1/4/06



345kV (H-Frame Section): Photo on the left shows where stone was recently installed to stabilize the access road in from the Bethel Reservoir land. Photo on the right shows some of the trees adjacent to the stream will need to be removed for ROW expansion. They will be felled towards the mats. 1/4/06





**View of tree clearing operations along the ROW. 1/4/06**



**Photo on the left shows an overview of the ROW and access road. Ruts are deepening, even with snow cover so mats will be installed along the wetland. Photo on the right shows a close up of the wetland ruts created a few weeks ago. If any channelization is noted during the thaw, wetland repairs may be needed. 1/4/06**





Photo on the left is a view of access road creation for continuing clearing on the ROW portion between Chestnut Ridge Rd. and Hoyts Hill. Photo on the right shows where snow plowing has created sediment/snow piles that require controls. Additional mats are being installed and more silt fence was recommended. 1/4/06



View of a constructed stream crossing using a number of mats. Again, silt fence was recommended along the edge of the stream to prevent sediment/snow piles and tracked sediment from migrating into the water. 1/4/06